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Enjoy your quarterly e-newsletter from Open Door Preschools.

Important Dates:

March 15th-19th: CLOSED for Spring Break

April 16th: East School CLOSED for in-service

April 24th: Save the Date! Children's Concert at Threadgill's

May 31st: CLOSED for Memorial Day

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### **Open Door Central is Re-Accredited!**



Under the more stringent standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), our staff spent over a year compiling documentation, updating policies, improving the classrooms and playgrounds and ensuring that we are indeed following best practices in the field. It was an arduous process—led by site director Michele Naumann, assisted by Diana Peyton and the entire teaching staff, with guidance from the ACC Accreditation Project—but one that resulted in uniformly high scores (several at 100%). NAEYC confirms what our families and supporters have long known: that Open Door's commitment to quality and inclusion is unwavering.

Open Door East has had its initial application approved by NAEYC and is diligently preparing to submit the candidacy materials by May 31.

-Larry Elsner, Executive Director

[Click here to read more about the accreditation process.](#)

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### **Adventures of Hotman!**

One of our East School parents wrote a blog for her nonprofit which brags about not only her own child-raising powers, but those of Open Door Preschools as well. Here's an excerpt from her blog post on December 8, 2009.

My three-year-old has gotten into Superheroes lately. Or as he prefers to call them, Superfriends. Superman, Batman, Robin, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, Hotman, Flash; he likes them all.

Hotman? Yup, Hotman. Ben has created a



new superhero. He was playing the other day and asked if my husband was Hotman. That started some interesting conversations, as you can imagine.

"What does Hotman do?" we asked him.

"Hotman takes care of the other superheroes," he told us matter-of-factly.

I had some serious mama-pride kick in as I realized that my little boy's imagination ran in the direction of creating a helper and care-taker.



"Clearly, we're very good at this parenting thing," I told my husband. And clearly Open Door Preschool's mission of cultivating helping and caring was taking a toll. The good kind.

-Tara Levy, Proud Mama

[Click here to read the entire blog post.](#)

### The Shooting Stars Show Their Artwork at Carver Library!



This artwork was created by the three-year-olds in the Star class at the Open Door Preschool East. The students read and re-enacted the story of "The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything," and they worked cooperatively to make a mural! We are very proud of their team effort to create such a beautiful piece of art.

The mural was on display for the month of October at the Carver Public Library, and many students went with their

families to the library to view the mural and check out books. We hope to display more artwork in public places in the New Year!

Jessica Gaby (Open Door teacher)  
Angela Schafer (AISD inclusion teacher)



### Love

A big Thank You to our most recent volunteers and donors:

\$50,000 from the JMR Barker Foundation to fund our "Teacher Quality Initiative," which includes a part-time education director, professional development and a new College Fund, a forgivable loan program for staff to continue their education when other funding is not available.

2009 Friends of the Open Door! Together, you've donated a little over \$11,000 which helps make it possible for us to continue into our 35th year of providing excellent childcare for all families in Austin.

\$3000 from the Weatherspoon Foundation.

\$750 from Compass Bank.

Through United Way's MLK Day of Service, the East School hosted 20 volunteers that painted, organized the teacher resource room and moved dirt to where it should be - closer to the hands of small children.

[It's not too late! Click here to become a Friend of Open Door this year.](#)

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3/10/2010

Open Door has Friends, Adventures of ...

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